



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Office of the Secretary
Office of Public Health and Science

Office of Minority Health
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Grantees:

On June 27th we will mark the 14th observance of National HIV Testing Day. The National Association of People with AIDS (NAPWA) launched National HIV Testing Day (NHTD) in 1995 to promote the importance of counseling, testing, and early diagnosis. Your organization is a key partner with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Minority Health (OMH) in addressing the impact of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the United States. To demonstrate our partnership to the diverse communities we serve, we encourage you to plan a local activity to raise awareness about the importance of HIV testing.

Observance of National HIV Testing Day allows us to focus community attention on the continued impact of the epidemic on communities across the Country. In 2006, an estimated 56,300 new HIV infections occurred in the U.S., representing a 40% increase over CDC's previous estimate of 40,000 new infections per year. Despite advances in treatment, education and outreach, a significant number of people continue to be unaware of their status, enter into treatment late, or are stigmatized. Moreover, communities of color continue to be disproportionately impacted by the epidemic. According to the CDC, the rate of new infections among non-Hispanic blacks was 7 times the rate among whites in 2006. During the same year the rate of new HIV infections among Hispanics was 3 times the rate among whites. National HIV Testing Day gives us an opportunity to communicate the importance of HIV testing and to offer convenient testing locations to those at greatest risk. Participation in local events across the country will also enable communities at highest risk to gain access to HIV prevention education, treatment and care.

Enclosed is a list of resources for your use in planning activities for National HIV Testing Day. Each day, the work you do supports the provision of services and healthcare for many people living with, or affected by, the HIV/AIDS epidemic. We depend on that work as our frontline response to HIV/AIDS. We thank you in advance for planning National HIV Testing Day events on or near June 27th. Should your organization choose to participate in a National HIV Testing

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Day event, we ask that you share your activities with the OMH. We appreciate your continued commitment and dedication to the fight against HIV/AIDS.

Sincerely,

Sonsiere Cobb-Souza

Sonsiere Cobb-Souza, Director
Division of Program Operations
Office of Minority Health

Enclosure